Unnatural Crime

1382. i. 5.

THE

# TRIAL

OF

*Samuel Scrimshaw* and *John Ross*,

FOR A

# CONSPIRACY,

IN SENDING

# THREATNING LETTERS

TO

## HUMPHRY MORICE, Esq; of *Dover-Street*:

With an Intent to extort Money from him.

At the Adjournment of the SESSIONS at GUILD-HALL, on *Tuesday* the 17th of *July* 1759.

Being PART III. of the Sixth SESSIONS in the MAYORALTY of

The Right Hon^ble Sir RICHARD GLYN, Knt.

LORD-MAYOR of the CITY of *LONDON*.

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*LONDON*:
Printed, and sold by M. COOPER, at the *Globe* in *Pater-noster-Row*: 1759.
[ Price One Shilling. ]

17 July 1759

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# THE TRIAL OF *Samuel Scrimshaw* and *John Ross*, &c.

BEFORE the Right Honourable Sir RICHARD GLYN, Knt. Lord-Mayor of the City of *London*: Sir WILLIAM MORETON, Knt. Recorder, and others of His Majesty's Juſtices of *Oyer* and *Terminer* for the ſaid City.

*The Jury.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Thomas Cooper | John Howard |
| William Herbert | William Stone |
| James Price | Benjamin Worthy |
| Joſeph Goodchild | George Goodman |
| Robert Duncin | Francis Booth |
| Thomas Eaden | Leonard Bailey |

243, 244. **Samuel Scrimshaw** and **John Ross**, were indicted together with **John Richardſon**, not taken, for that they being perſons of wicked and corrupt minds and diſpoſitions, without the fear of God before their eyes, and wickedly and maliciouſly deviſing, and intending, through the inſtigation of the Devil, not only unjuſtly to diſturb the peace and happineſs of Humphry Morice, Eſq; an honeſt, upright, and worthy leige-ſubject of our ſaid Lord the King; but alſo to injure him in his good character and reputation, as in his eſtate and fortune; and alſo by wicked and diabolical devices, accuſations, and pretences, unjuſtly to acquire to themſelves, a large ſum of money from him the ſaid Humphry, to ſupport their uſeleſs and profligate ways of life, on the 26th of Feb. and upon divers other days and times, with force and arms, at London, did wickedly, unlawfully, and maliciouſly, combine, conſpire, confederate, and agree together, to write divers wicked and ſcandalous letters to him, with divers horrid, wicked, falſe, and malicious threats, inſinuations, and menaces therein contained, unjuſtly to defame, and injure his character, and to diſturb his peace and happineſs, unleſs he would comply with divers wicked, ſcandalous, unjuſt, and oppreſſive terms, contained in the ſaid letters, to the great damage, injury, and oppreſſion of him the ſaid Humphry; to the great diſhonour and ſcandal of the laws of this kingdom, to the

evil and pernicious example of all others, in the like caſe offending, and againſt the peace of our ſaid lord the King, his crown and dignity. With four other counts, varying the nature of the offence.

*After the indictment was opened by Mr Eyre, Mr Serjeant Davy ſpoke as follows* *.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhip, and you Gentlemen of the Jury. I am Counſel in this caſe for the proſecution, againſt the two defendants at the bar.

This is an indictment conſiſting of five counts, containing two ſpecies of offences. The firſt four counts are for a conſpiracy in the manner mentioned in the indictment.

The firſt count for a conſpiracy to extort money from Mr Morice, by threatning falſely to accuſe him of certain deteſtable crimes, of which he was innocent.

The ſecond count for a conſpiracy to extort money, by threatning falſely to charge him with having been guilty of ſodomitical practices, of which he was wholly innocent.

The third count for a conſpiracy, to write divers wicked, falſe, and ſcandalous letters to him, with divers falſe, horrid, and malicious threats, inſinuations, and charges therein, unjuſtly to defame, and injure him in his character.

The fourth count, and to which, perhaps, this caſe will be more particularly applicable, is, that they did agree together, to extort money from Mr Morice; and in order to bring it about, that they did write divers, wicked, and ſcandalous letters, with divers, impious, falſe, and malicious charges, and accuſations, therein contained, unjuſtly to defame, and injure that gentleman in his character.

Theſe are the counts in this indictment, with reſpect to the conſpiracy.

There is another general count, for ſending threatning letters to Mr Morice, highly reflecting on his character, with intention to extort money from him.

Gentlemen, theſe are two different ſorts of offences; and with regard to the firſt, a ſingle perſon cannot be guilty of it, for no man can conſpire with himſelf alone. There are three different perſons in this indictment, two of them only are before you (the third is not taken). Two perſons may be guilty of a conſpiracy, ſo that if you ſhould find either of theſe defendants have agreed with Richardſon, or with each other, you may find your verdict accordingly.

I thought proper to mention this, becauſe this is a caſe (as all conſpiracies are) attended with ſome difficulty.

It is neceſſary you ſhould apply your attention to that general rule of law I have mentioned.

Conſpiracies are things not eaſily found out; they are not at firſt ſo intelligible as could be wiſhed. It becomes my duty, and I hope I ſhall have no need to make an apology for taking up your time, to relate this matter to you as intelligibly, and clearly, as poſſible, in order that you may be enabled to apply your attention more properly to the ſeveral ſorts of evidence, which will be laid before you.

Gentlemen, in the firſt place, it is neceſſary you ſhould be informed who theſe perſons are, Scrimſhaw, Richardſon, and Roſs, for though Richardſon is not before the court, yet, if it appears that either Scrimſhaw or Roſs conſpired with him, then that perſon is as guilty, as if he had conſpired with the other.

Theſe three perſons were lately partners in an Office of Intelligence, kept in Fleet-Market, in the City of London, an office where ſervants were to be informed of maſters, and other perſons of a variety of other things; amongſt which, commiſſions in the army; and theſe two articles of buſineſs introduced theſe perſons into the guilt they are charged with.

Scrimſhaw was formerly a Hair-Merchant in Covent-Garden, but ſince a bankrupt.

Richardſon

* The publiſher of this trial thinks it his duty to acquaint the publick, that he had no opportunity of laying Mr Serjeant Davy's ſpeech before him, for his peruſal, before he went the Circuit; and that 'tis now printed from the Short-Hand Writer's notes, with all the care that is poſſible.

Richardſon was formerly a Linnen-Draper, but ſince a bankrupt. Likewiſe,

Roſs was lately a common Soldier.

Theſe three perſons have entered into a partnerſhip together, and kept this Office of Intelligence.

There is one Peter Parry, who will appear before you as a witneſs. He had occaſion to apply to this office in January laſt, for intelligence of a place to ſerve as a ſervant to a hop-merchant. This enquiry, which coſt him one ſhilling, occaſioned ſeveral meetings between him and the defendants. Parry it ſeems had made an appointment ſome time ago to meet Scrimſhaw and Richardſon, in order to treat upon ſome buſineſs; but was hindered from keeping it, by another engagement that he entered into, of going to the Fountain-Tavern on Ludgate-Hill; and from this occaſion, the whole of this conſpiracy took it's riſe.

Mr Morice, the gentleman who proſecutes the perſons before you, had a ſervant, one Goſling, who was his groom, and had had ſome unhappy differences with his wife; in order to their coming to ſome terms, there was to be a meeting with Goſling and his wife, and ſome friends, at the Fountain-Tavern; at which Parry, by means of his wife being an acquaintance of Goſling's wife, was there; and Mr Steydall of Maddox-ſtreet, a gentleman of known good character, at the requeſt of Goſling, was alſo at this meeting.

On this occaſion, as frequently is the caſe, when men and their wives meet to make up breaches, they part leſs affectionate than they met; it happened ſo here, — for Goſling's wife, who is not of the moſt peaceable temper in the world, happened to uſe ſome harſh expreſſions to her huſband; and amongſt other opprobrious names, called him, in her paſſion, a *Buggerer*. Now from that ſingle circumſtance all this great ſcene of conſpiracy, which will be laid before you, ariſes. Parry was there, and heard this, but at that time did not apply it to any purpoſe. At his next meeting with Scrimſhaw and Richardſon, which was at the Earl of Warwick in Fleet-Lane, which is in the city of London, (for it is very neceſſary for you, gentlemen, to conſider what was done in the city of London) he was to make his apology for not having met them according to his appointment. —— There was another gentleman happen'd to be there; and I am ſorry to find he is not in this indictment; his name is Boulton Comſon, an Attorney. Parry in making his apology to Scrimſhaw, for not coming to his appointment, told the true reaſon, the meeting of Goſling and his wife; and in converſation told them what had paſſed between them. Scrimſhaw, upon hearing the word *Buggerer* put his finger up to his noſe; and ſaid, *ſomething may come of this.* —— When ſuch low people keep an office of intelligence they are glad to have intelligence of all kinds. —— Then ſaid he, do you call upon me, (ſpeaking to Parry) to-morrow, ſomething may be made of this; the next day Parry went, then Scrimſhaw made him this infamous propoſal, — That as to what had been ſaid the night before, of Goſling's wife accuſing her huſband of buggery, and obſerving that he lived with Mr Morice, and that gentlemen, who are tender of their reputation, are the fitteſt perſons to work upon, — ſaid, if this matter is well managed it will be a fortune to us. —— It would be a mine, —— do you attend to me on this occaſion, and we will make a conſiderable ſum of money out of this.

Several meetings were had, and ſeveral propoſals made, but they did not hit, and correſpond; but at laſt it was agreed, that Parry was to be the hand through which this buſineſs was to be tranſacted. — Scrimſhaw, Richardſon, and Roſs, had alſo ſeveral meetings, unknown to Parry, and agreed to be the prompters of Parry, to direct him in what manner the ſcheme ſhould be executed. Scrimſhaw firſt wrote a letter in a diſguiſed hand to Mr Morice, directed it to him in Dover-Street, and put it into the Penny-Poſt. That letter, it is true, was wrote at a houſe near the Cockpit, which is not in the city of London.

But I ſhould have told you, that in order to convict perſons of a conſpiracy, it is not neceſſary to prove that any thing was done in conſequence of it. For a bare conſpiracy to do an unlawful act, is a crime of itſelf indictable, although nothing further is done in purſuance of it. But whatever happened in any other place, in conſequence of this conſpiracy in London,

this court hath jurisdiction to inquire into. Accordingly the following letter was sent.

London, Feb. 27. 1759.

'Honoured Sir,

'I Hope you will excuse my taking this liberty (more so as I am a stranger to you) but 'I happen'd to be at a certain place not long 'since, where your name was drawn in question, upon a subject I am certain was you to 'know it, you would by no means approve of 'it (more so, as the party receives so considerable a bounty from your hand, and is 'maintained by you). If you desire to know 'the particulars, will make an affidavit of 'what was mentioned, and will explain other 'instances to you concerning what I have here 'mentioned, and must beg my name to be kept 'a secret. If you think it proper may send 'me a line directed thus; To R. E. to be 'left at the Paul's Head, Lawrence-Lane, 'Cheapside. Or if it will be more agreeable, 'be pleased to put it in the Daily Advertiser 'on Saturday or Monday next, and you shall 'hear farther from me, and all secrecy shall be 'punctually observed.

'I am, Sir,

'Your most obedient,

'humble servant to command,

'R. E.'

'To Humphry Morice, Esq;
'Member of Parliament, at
'his house Dover-Street,
'Westminster.'

Gentlemen, you see this letter orders the answer to be directed to the Paul's-Head, Lawrence-Lane, London. You observe farther, that this letter gives great hints of something to be told very much to the advantage of Mr Morice, which greatly concerns his character, and which will require the solemnity of an affidavit; you see too, a great secrecy is to be imposed on the very person, whom, if guilty, it concerned only to keep it so. Yet the conspirators are the persons who desire it may be made a secret. Mr Morice ordered a short answer to be sent to this letter; 'Telling them, 'if they would be at the Hoop-Tavern in Coventry-Street, Piccadilly, next Sunday evening, exactly at nine o'clock, he should be 'there, ready to hear the particulars, and that 'they might depend upon his observing an inviolable secrecy; and if they could not meet 'at that place to send a line by a porter, with 'directions for them to ask for Mr Williams.'

You observe, that Mr Morice, not knowing or guessing what sort of a secret was to be told him, adopted the name of Mr Williams, and you will see the reason for that by and by.—This letter was directed to R. E. at the Paul's-Head, Lawrence-Lane, where Parry found it, and communicated it to Scrimshaw and Comson, who met at Caywood's by Charing-Cross, where Comson prepared a draught for an answer, but Scrimshaw not approving it, altered it, and than copied it, and sent it by a private hand. It was dated March 3, 1759. 12 o'clock, and is as follows:

'Honoured Sir,

'YOur's I receiv'd,' here is an acknowledgment of having received the letter sent to Lawrence-Lane, Cheapside; then he proposes some other meeting, and says, 'if it be 'agreeable to you, would rather meet you 'either on Monday or Tuesday night, at the 'place and time you mentioned; if not, will 'to-morrow night, as desired, and shall observe the direction. Therefore I presume to 'beg the favour of your interest, to intercede 'for me with some gentlemen, to procure me 'a place in the Custom-house, Victualling-Office, or in any other station under the government, in any part of England, as I am sensible it is in your power to grant me a favour 'of this kind, as vacancies of this nature daily 'happens. Sir, in my asking you this favour, 'I hope you will not take me (nor look upon 'me) to be one of those that would offer to 'impose upon any gentleman, as Sir John 'Glyne, member for Flint, and Samuel Egerton, Esq; member for Cheshire, and others, 'knows me extremely well, and would do anything to serve me; but in asking of this nature it is not in their power to serve a friend;

'if

'if it is, they do not chuſe to make uſe of 'their intereſt, if they have any. As I have 'met with great loſſes, and have been out of 'employment above this two years, and ha- 'ving a wife and child to maintain, has redu- 'ced my circumſtances very much, which is 'the ſole reaſon of my petitioning you to be 'my friend; as it will be doing me a great 'piece of ſervice, and yourſelf no diſkindneſs, 'which ſhall be for ever acknowledged.' (This is a letter wrote by Scrimſhaw in anſwer to Mr Morice's firſt letter; he mentions his connections with other perſons, as a man of conſequence, and then concludes in this manner) '(your compliance to the above will be much 'better beſtowed than on them who now re- 'ceive your bounty, and you may depend I 'will diſcloſe the whole, and nothing but the 'truth, as I ſhall make an affidavit of the 'ſame.) Be pleaſed to ſend me an anſwer to 'the above, directed as before, and let it be 'there by eight in the morning, if not to- 'night. Your compliance to the within men- 'tioned, and you may command,

'Your moſt obedient ſervant, &c.

'P. S. If poſſible let me have your anſwer to- 'night. I ſhould be greatly obliged to 'you, to incloſe in the anſwer a couple of 'franks.'

'To Humphry Morice, Eſq;
'Member of Parliament,
'Dover-Street, Weſtmin-
'ſter.'

They very modeſtly deſire him to incloſe a couple of franks, to ſhow they are people of very genteel correſpondence. To this Mr Morice cauſed this ſhort anſwer to be wrote.

'IF we do'nt meet this evening I can't hear 'what you have to ſay in a great while, 'being to go out of town to-morrow, ſo ſhall 'expect you at nine o'clock.'

Mr Morice, from the receipt of the firſt of theſe letters, ſaw very plainly, it was ſent with ſome intent to extort money from him, and determined to prepare for a proſecution againſt the conſpirators, whoever they ſhould be; and therefore he let them proceed farther, before they ſhould fall into the trap which was laid to catch them.—For this end an appointment was made for a meeting at the Hoop-Tavern on Sunday evening, and Mr Morice with his ſervant went there, but nobody came. Gentlemen, as the preſent defendants have no counſel, I will make it my duty to point out every circumſtance in their favour. Hitherto Scrimſhaw only has appeared with Parry, but it will appear that the other defendant Roſs, (as well as Richardſon, who is not now before the court) were all privy to the whole of this tranſaction; and though they did not all together confederate, and agree with Parry, yet they confederated and agreed one with another. A few days after this, upon Parry's going again to the Office of Intelligence in the Fleet-Market, Richardſon and Roſs applied to him. This is the firſt time they ſaid any thing at all to him. They aſked him how the *grand affair* went on. Now it is impoſſible they ſhould have known any thing at all about this grand affair, if they had had no communication with Scrimſhaw; he informed them how the grand affair, as they call'd it, went on; then Richardſon, in the preſence of Roſs and Parry, at the Golden Key, Fleetditch, drew up the following letter, which Parry copied, and ſent to Mr Morice, dated the 28th of March.

'SIR,

'MY reaſon for not complying with your 'repeated deſires, of having an interview 'with me at the Hoop-Tavern, in Coventry- 'ſtreet; as I did not receive your letter 'till the 'Monday, otherwiſe would have waited you. 'There was two other gentlemen of my ac- 'quaintance, in the adjoining room, whom 'will come upon oath, of what paſſed, as well 'as myſelf; you may depend on the greateſt 'honour, and ſecrecy. I have a relation that 'has been twenty-three years in the Train of 'Artillery, in the Eaſt-Indies, as Lieutenant, 'lately come home; and is now Captain- 'Lieutenant in the ſame: a gentleman of fa- 'mily and fortune, who is deſirous of being 'promoted to the rank of Captain, in an old

company

'company of Invalids, in Britain, or the adjacent isles; or the Captain of an old regiment of Foot, at home, or abroad. If this is not agreeable to you, would be glad to know what favours you would bestow; as the point, now in question, takes your honour in the most tender part. I hope, for your own peace, you will not fail in giving me a speedy answer, directed as before.

'I am,

'Sir,

'your most obedient servant,

'to command,

R. E.'

This letter, gentlemen, was wrote by Richardson, in the presence of Ross; at this time I would explain to you a circumstance that appeared afterwards: the reason for their application for this captain's commission.——These people kept an Office of Intelligence, and it happened that about this time, a gentleman had applied to this office (as these office-keepers have a knowledge of all places, from the Great-Seal to the Hall-Keeper) where you give them a shilling for intelligence, and have your name entered.——A letter had been sent to the office to be informed, if any such intelligence could be given, with a reward of two hundred pounds if they could get it. Here you see, that if they could have furnished their customer, they could have put the money into their own pockets. To this letter there is a postscript, that the party applying had been twenty-three years in the King's service.

Mr Morice upon the reception of this letter sent the following answer.

'AS I am quite in the dark about what 'you have to tell me, nor can at all 'guess what it is. I do not know how to 'promise any thing 'till I hear what you 'have to say, which I shall be ready to do 'next Monday, the 2d of April, if you will 'come to the Hoop-Tavern at five o'clock 'and ask for Mr Williams.——What you 'have to say to me let me know that first, 'then it is time to talk of favours.'

He did not get an answer 'till the 31st of March: but in the mean time here is another circumstance that happened, which will evidently show that there was a connection between the defendants and Richardson.

Ross and Richardson, immediately after the writing this last letter, in conversation with Parry, asked him, Is this man like to come down?——It is not every body that is likely to be affrighted with these letters.——Is Mr Morice that kind of man that one might expect will bleed? And then Ross and Richardson, to encourage Parry, told him, that they had made inquiry after Mr Morice's character: and gave this account of him, that he was a gentleman of a very great estate, and great interest: and that he belonged to the Board of Green Cloth.——All this is true.——But then they added this circumstance, that he had lately paid 1500 l. smart-money on the like occation. This, gentlemen, was the mere effect of their own wicked imaginations, and made use of to encourage Parry to go on: the next day, which is very material, Scrimshaw came to Parry, and told him the very same story. It is very true, you and I may at different times tell the same story to a third person, without having any communication with one another; but it is impossible you and I should both invent such a lye, and tell it exactly in the same manner, unless we have had some consultation together.

Things being in this situation, Mr Morice was very desirous to have an interview with these conspirators; and did not discourage them too much, as the surest means of bringing them to justice, and of fixing them beyond all possibility of defence.

Scrimshaw, on the other hand, looks upon every thing to be in a fair way of success, and takes notice to Parry, that Mr Morice is always desirous of an interview, and therefore hopes that Mr Morice will bleed freely: and that a good deal of money may be made on the occasion. Under this prospect he calls upon Parry to give him the following promissory note.

Dated

Dated March 29. 'I do hereby agree and 'promiſe to pay to Samuel Scrimſhaw, or order, 'one half of the ſum I do receive from Hum-'phry Morice, Eſq; of Dover-ſtreet, Member 'of Parliament: as witneſs my hand,

'Peter Parry.'

This note, gentlemen, was found in Scrimſhaw's pocket at the very time he was taken.

Parry having ſhewed Scrimſhaw the laſt anſwer he got from Mr Morice, Scrimſhaw drew an anſwer to it, but Parry did not ſend it; and inſtead of it, he ſent another, which he wrote from a draught of Richardſon's. Here we bring them all clearly connected together, although Scrimſhaw, it muſt be admitted, was not ſeen at any one time conferring with them upon this ſubject, and there was this very clear reaſon for it. It was neceſſary they ſhould attend Parry ſeparately, and at different times, in order that, by comparing notes one with another, they might try his fidelity. Rogues cannot always confide in one another.——This letter drawn by Richardſon, and copied by Parry, was dated the 31ſt of March, and I will read it to you.

'SIR,

'I Did not know you was ſo far under the 'cloud, not to know the full meaning of 'my letters. And I hope you will now excuſe 'my drawing the whole curtain, but it may 'fall into other hands before it reaches you: as 'by what here follows you will be able to 'unriddle the whole. I myſelf was preſent 'at the whole, likewiſe two gentlemen of 'my acquaintance was in the adjoining 'room, and heard what paſſed. A certain 'perſon was pleaſed to charge you with ſod—l 'practices, which I think all mankind ought 'to hold the greateſt deteſtation; and that you 'now have a * youth training (not far from 'town for that purpoſe). Now, Sir, if you are 'willing to comply with the propoſal in my laſt, 'it will bind an inviolable ſecrecy. If that is 'not agreeable, ſhall be glad to know what 'you are willing to do. Your anſwer by the 'bearer, or to-morrow morning by nine 'o'clock. And if your propoſal be agreeable 'to the confidence ſuch a ſubject deſerves, you 'may depend upon the moſt profound ſecrecy, 'and likewiſe an interview at the place men-'tioned, as deſired. I beg your anſwer imme-'diately.

'I am,

'Sir,

'Your humble ſervant,

R. E.

'P. S. As the bearer comes on purpoſe, I 'hope you will pay him.

'Sir, it is a thouſand pitties, a gentleman 'of your fortune and character ſhould have 'your name drawn in queſtion, upon ſuch an 'occaſion.

'To Humphry Morice, Eſq;
'Member of Parliament,
'Dover-Street, Piccadilly.'

To which letter Mr Morice cauſed the following anſwer to be wrote.

'SIR,

'IF you make any diſcovery anſwerable to 'what you have promiſed, you may depend 'upon a proper return being made from me. 'But I muſt tell you, I have ſomething elſe to 'do, than to waſte my time in writing letters 'to no purpoſe, and muſt deſire to be excuſed 'receiving any more from you, unleſs you are 'at the place appointed to-morrow, as it will 'be the ſecond time you will have kept me



* A child of eight years old, belonging to one of Mr Morice's ſervants, and educated by that gentleman's charity at Hampſtead.

'waiting for you in vain. If you do not fail 'meeting, you will much oblige

Your humble servant.

Mr Morice wanted an interview with these fellows; resolving never to be with them alone, which was a necessary caution; and the moment he saw them to fix them, and commence a prosecution.

Mr Morice finding it was in vain to hope for any thing at all, 'till he could bring them to an interview, resolved to go; and took Gosling with him, and placed him in another room. Accordingly Ross, Richardson, and Parry, went as far as the Hoop-Tavern, and Parry went in: but instead of finding Mr Morice, he saw Gosling. Now, Mr Morice, not dreaming from what spring this conspiracy took it's rise, had unluckily taken Gosling there whom Parry knew. Parry seeing Gosling, ran away, and went to the Black Horse, within a door or two where his friends Ross and Richardson were waiting. Now I should have told you, that in their way to the Hoop-Tavern, a proposal was made by Ross and Richardson, and agreed to by Parry; that Parry was to demand 500 l. of Mr Morice: but by all means he was not to take less than 300 l. and Ross and Richardson, if necessary, were to say, that they were in the adjoining room, at the Fountain-Tavern on Ludgate-Hill, and had over-heard what passed there. Now here is another circumstance, which also proves, that Scrimshaw, Ross, and Richardson, conspired together. Scrimshaw also said to Parry, if I happen to be at any interview with Mr Morice, I'll say, that I was in the adjoining room, and over-heard what passed.

Gentlemen, as to Comson, he being a man of the Law, he took a little more caution than the rest had done. He was only to have ten guineas.—He is not in the indictment.—I am sorry for it.

Mr Morice not appearing at the Hoop-Tavern, but Gosling in his stead; they began now to think that all was not safe. However, there was a fifth letter drawn, and that by Richardson, at their office, and copied by Parry. It bears no date, and is as follows.

'BEING honoured with several letters 'from you, appointing you to meet me 'at a certain place, in obedience thereto I attended; but to my great surprise, I met only with your servant, therefore did not think 'it proper to divulge any thing to him, altho' 'he pretended he had a commission to open 'your letters, and privy to your secrets: but I 'could not credit that story. I will attend you 'in person at any time and place you shall 'mention and appoint. The sooner the better 'for reasons to myself. A gentleman of 'your fortune and character, it is a pity 'but that you should be thoroughly acquainted 'with what I have to say; and upon your performing what you have mentioned in one of 'your letters, I will relate upon oath, what I 'have to say; and you may depend upon an 'inviolable secrecy.

'From your humble servant.'

In the postscript he says, if I have not an answer to this from yourself, I shall take an opportunity of leaving one for you at a certain place.—What place they meant is not known, but it must be some where, where Mr Morice would not like to have one sent.*

Mr Morice, upon the receipt of this letter, ordered Gosling to answer it, and he accordingly sent him the following answer.

'WIlliam Parry, I write to you by my 'Master's order, to tell you, that it 'is in vain for you to expect he will condescend, either to see you, or write to 'you: but as you persist in saying, you have 'something of consequnce, to reveal to him, he 'has bid me let you know he has spoke to Mr 'Fielding, to give you the hearing, and you 'may wait upon him, at his house in Bow-'street, as soon as you please; if it is any 'thing necessary to be told to my Master, the 'Justice will acquaint him with it.'

At this time, Mr Morice, not knowing of any transactions in the City of London, intended to prosecute these conspirators in Middlesex; and for that purpose made application to Justice

* Parry declared, they meant at the Lobby of the House of Commons.

Juſtice Fielding, and informed him of all the letters he had received.

Parry, on his receiving this letter from Goſling, ſent the following letter, copied by himſelf, from a draught of Richardſon's in Roſs's preſence.

'MR Goſling, your's I received dated Saturday (yeſterday). Your writing to me by your maſters order's, perhaps it may be ſo; but let me tell you, it is not often, that ſervants take that liberty to open their maſters letters; but ſerving him in the capacity you do, it is not to be wondered at, but ſuch liberty might be taken. However, what Mrs Goſling told you at the Fountain, plainly appears now to be a matter of fact: Why did not you contradict her then, when ſuch a heinous crime was laid to your charge? But what is mentioned here is not half what I have to ſay; and if it be deſired, will bring proof of it; which will make ſome perſon be looked upon what they are now repreſented. As to my going to Mr Fielding, or any other particular gentleman, I aſſure you I ſhall not. What I have to ſay I ſhall communicate it immediately to the publick; and I ſhall be always ready to aver what I have to ſay, by ſufficient witneſſes to any perſon I ſhould be called upon legally. Now Sir, you are to do as you think fit, as I look upon you and Mr ——— to be one. If you be minded, I will meet you any evening this week; if you will do what is handſome, if not, you may depend upon ſeeing it in the publick papers, with your name in full length, and every word that paſſed particularly mentioned. Your anſwer to this is immediately deſired.

'Your's, &c. Peter Parry.'

This letter was directed to Mr John Goſling at the Swan on Hay-Hill, near Dover-Street, Piccadilly; and was alſo laid before juſtice Fielding, who iſſued his warrant againſt Parry. But before he was taken, the D——l, as if he had owed the conſpirators an ill turn, provides farther evidence againſt them; for you ſee here another letter wrote by Parry to Goſling, from a draught prepared by Scrimſhaw: and the language, references, and circumſtances of this letter, are a further evidence of Scrimſhaw's communication in this matter with Richardſon and Roſs.

'Mr Goſling.

'SIR,

'NOT receiving any anſwer to the letter that was left you at the Swan on Hay-Hill, therefore unleſs you immediately anſwer this, you will oblige me to ſend for anſwer to Dover-ſtreet. If you have any regard to your character, or Mr Williams's, I would have you heal up the wounds, which you may do now on reaſonable terms, otherwiſe you may depend it will be made known to the publick, with your name in full length, and the place of reſidence, and that of Mr Williams likewiſe, with other circumſtances which you little think I know; and ſuch as ought not to be mentioned; not forgetting the affair of Hampſtead, which is ſhocking to think at [what he means God almighty knows]. As yet, Mr Goſling, it is a profound ſecret, and ſhall remain ſo with me, if you think proper; and am apt to think, that it will be for your intereſt, as well as Mr Williams's character, to have it kept ſo. Was I to ſee you, I could tell you ſeveral inſtances relative to this affair more than you are aware of. If you will do any thing in reaſon it will be complied with, and that immediately. Pray, who can hurt me for putting it in the papers, as I can bring proof of it? what I ſhall mention I ſhall do upon oath, if required. Why had you not come alone to the Hoop-Tavern; had you done ſo I ſhould have explained myſelf then to you. I am apt to think it will no way agreeable to you, to ſee your name in the public paper upon ſuch a ſubject; but I would not willingly blaſt a man's character. I will give you any ſecurity, to any amount, never to mention it, if you require it. An anſwer to this I ſhall expect to-morrow by noon. You cannot take it ill of me if you are expoſed, but blame yourſelf. If you have a mind to meet me alone, I will meet you

'when-

'whenever you pleaſe. I thought to have 'come and ſend for you to the Swan, but I 'was afraid you might not approve of it. I 'ſhould have ſent you this ſooner, but heard 'you was not in town. Fail not to let me 'have your anſwer.

'I am,

'Yours, &c.

'Peter Parry.

'Sunday 6 o'clock.

'Directed to Mr John Goſling, 'to be left at the Swan, Hay- 'Hill, Piccadilly.'

This Sunday muſt be the 22d of April.

I will not, Gentlemen, waſte your time with obſervations upon this letter, they muſt occur to every man's underſtanding, and prove the connections that ſubſiſted between Scrimſhaw and his confederates.

To this letter Goſling ſent Parry the following anſwer.

'Mr Parry,

'I Came to town on Sunday laſt, and on my 'arrival I received a letter from you. I 'am very ſorry you ſhould give yourſelf ſo 'much trouble about me; but if you will 'meet me on Wedneſday evening, a little be- 'fore 6 o'clock, at Mr Carty's, at the King's 'Head, Drury-lane, where I will be at that 'time. I hope I ſhall be able to give you an 'anſwer to your ſatisfaction.

'John Goſling.

'Monday Morning, Apr. 22.

'Directed to Mr R. E. at the 'Paul's-Head, Lawrence- 'Lane, Cheapſide.'

Now the place appointed being in the neighbour-hood of Mr Fielding, Parry, for a very good reaſon, did not chuſe to come there; but ſent Goſling the following letter.

'SIR,

'YEſterday I received your's of Monday, 'appointing an interview this evening at 'Drury-lane. As you are pleaſed to ſay you 'are ſorry I give myſelf ſo much trouble about 'you, I here declare, this is the laſt time you 'ſhall hear from me in this manner; neither 'ſhall I meet you in Drury-lane; if you chuſe 'to come to the Golden Key, Fleet-market, 'near Holborn, between ſix and ſeven this 'evening, I ſhall be there, ready to give you 'all the ſatisfaction you can deſire; if not, 'you may expect to ſee yourſelf and Mr Wil- 'liams, &c. very ſoon in the public papers.

'Your's, &c.

Peter Parry.

Parry likewiſe wrote Goſling another letter, copied from a draught prepared by Richardſon, to the following effect:

'Mr Goſling,

'SIR,

'I Have from time to time received various 'letters, under the ſanction of your maſter, 'I therefore now inſiſt to know, for what 'purpoſe, or what meaning you can have, in 'the word *ſatisfaction*. I am ſorry you had 'not my laſt letter in time, which was owing 'to the neglect of the perſon in the houſe, be- 'ing left there by 12 o' clock. Now, to put 'an end to this myſterious affair, I deſire the 'favour of a line to know, for what reaſon 'you can have ſo often, in your letters, deſi- 'red an interview, and for what end and pur- 'poſe; and on the receipt of your's will be 'punctual at 6 o' clock, to meet you at Mr 'Overall's, at the Bloſſom's Inn, Lawrence- 'Lane, where we may have a room to our- 'ſelves, and finally put an end to this trouble.

'I am,

'Your humble ſervant,

'Peter Parry.'

To

To this letter was added the following poſtſcript.

'N. B. As you propoſe ſatisfaction in ſeveral of your letters, your compliance in that, I will then juſtly inform you who are your accuſers of an infamous affair laid to your charge, and the gentleman's ~~——~~ *with a daſh* —— *under the name of Williams, &c.* Your immediate anſwer will oblige,

'Your humble ſervant,

'As before ——'

This letter, Gentlemen, was prepared, as I told you, by Richardſon, but who, do you think, prepared the draught of the poſtſcript? it was Scrimſhaw, and we have the original draught under his own hand to lay before you.

Nothing material happened after this before they were taken up: when they were taken up, Scrimſhaw being charged by Parry, who was firſt apprehended, with having entered into a conſpiracy with Parry, Roſs, and Richardſon, in order to extort money from Mr Morice; and with writing and ſending ſeveral of theſe letters to that gentleman; all this he confeſſed, but in excuſe ſaid, that he was not ſo guilty as Parry; and upon his being ſearched, there were found upon him ſeveral papers relative to this affair.—In the firſt place, there was Parry's note of hand to him, to give him half the money which he ſhould procure from Mr Morice.

In the ſecond place, there was found upon him a letter, dated the 15th of Feb. from Richardſon to him, wherein they talk of going ſharers, and having ſome infamous tranſactions before them.

There was alſo found, abundance of other papers of leſſer conſideration, ſhewing the intimacy and connections between him and his accomplices.

In Parry's pocket was found the draught of a letter under Scrimſhaw's own hand, which he intended Parry ſhould have ſent Mr Morice. In this letter he ſays:

'SIR,

'HAving received ſeveral letters from you, 'deſiring an interview, one on Saturday 'laſt, I preſume the purpoſe of meeting is on 'a very particular ſubject, to which I was an 'evidence. I by theſe inform you, I have no 'objection, in order to inform you what I had 'related in a very extraordinary affair that ma'terially concerns you; as by character you 'are a gentleman of a very large fortune, 'I make no doubt that you will have any ob'jection, according to your promiſes, in ma'king me a genteel compliment, adequate 'to the confidence ſuch a ſubject deſerves; 'and you may depend on the moſt profound 'ſecrecy on oath, never to divulge what I 'know ——'

This, you ſee, is but part of the draught. He alſo confeſſed, he was preſent at the writing ſeveral of theſe letters; and particularly confeſſed the writing the letters of the 3d and 28th of March, and that he was to have had part of the money obtained from Mr Morice.

There was alſo found in Parry's pocket Scrimſhaw's draught of the poſtſcript to the laſt letter ſent to Goſling.

And there was found in Roſs's pocket, a letter from Mr Whitmore, of South Audley-Street, to him, in theſe words:

'SIR,

'I Forgot to caution you, leaſt you ſhould 'through any miſtake put forth any Adver'tiſement, for I would not on any account 'have any advertiſement relating to my affairs, 'on any account whatſoever. When you 'ſpeak to the perſon you mentioned, you may 'ſatisfy him, that a troop of Dragoons would 'be as agreeable as a company of Invalids.

'I am,

'Sir,

'Your humble ſervant,

'Edward Whitmore.'

It appears that theſe Office-keepers had groſsly impoſed upon, and deceived this gentleman, by telling him that they had intereſt with a perſon that was able to procure him a com-

pany of Invalids, and he in return informed them, that a troop of Dragoons would be equally agreeable.

Rofs was charged with his part in this wicked conſpiracy, and he did not deny it; but his defence was, and which is very true, that he did not write any of the Letters.

Now, Gentlemen, theſe are the ſeveral circumſtances of this caſe, in which you will find Parry was ſo deeply engaged in it, that I ſhould think it too much for theſe perſons, or either of them, to be convicted of ſo foul a crime upon his ſingle evidence, unſupported by other evidence and circumſtances. Parry deſerves puniſhment, but he however, (for I would ſpeak out on this occaſion) does entertain hopes of forgiveneſs, and is encouraged only to entertain thoſe hopes by his telling the whole truth. I admit, Gentlemen, he comes under the diſadvantage of an infamous accomplice, and his teſtimony deſerves credit no farther than 'tis ſupported by other evidence; but when all the circumſtances I have mentioned come to be laid before you by evidence, they will manifeſt the guilt of the priſoners to a demonſtration.

Gentlemen, If the perſons concerned in this conſpiracy had ſearched the whole bills of mortality, they could not have found a more unfit object for their wicked purpoſe than Mr Morice — but it has been often ſaid, that men of the moſt virtue, and moſt tender of their reputation, are moſt likely to yield to ſuch conſpiracies. I know no other reaſon why Mr Morice ſhould be fixed upon. I beg pardon for having taken up ſo much of your time, and ſhall only add, that Mr Morice thought it his duty to the public to bring this affair to a public trial; and that he is leſs concerned to convict the defendants, than he is deſirous, if they are innocent, that they may be acquitted.

*Peter Parry.* I firſt became acquainted with the two priſoners at the bar a little before Chriſtmas laſt; they kept an Intelligence Office in the Fleet-market, next door to the Golden Key: I went there and gave a ſhilling, as is uſual, in order that they ſhould procure me a place, either with a Hop-merchant, or in ſome warehouſe. Mr Scrimſhaw and Mr Richardſon kept it at that time. I uſed to call two or three times a day, to inquire if they had heard of a place. In December laſt there was Mr Steydall, Mr and Mrs Goſling, and myſelf, at the Fountain Tavern on Ludgate-Hill.

*Q.* What was the buſineſs of that meeting?

*Parry.* Mrs Goſling went there in order to meet her huſband; and ſhe fell in a violent paſſion, threw the things about the room, and amongſt other bad names called her huſband a Buggerer. Mr Richardſon ſent for me about three or four days after to the Earl of Warwick's head in Fleet-Lane: my wife went along with me; there were Mr Scrimſhaw, Richardſon, and one Comſon an Attorney, which I think lives in St James's Street. There was alſo preſent the landlord and another gentleman, a tall man.

*Q.* What was the buſineſs for which you was ſent for?

*Parry.* I had been a good while out of buſineſs, and I had printed ſome counterpanes, and Mr Scrimſhaw ſaid he could diſpoſe of them to a good advantage: I was to have met him that night at the Golden Key, that I went to the Fountain. Mr Scrimſhaw aſked me the reaſon I did not come that night, I ſaid I was at the Fountain on Ludgate-Hill. He aſked me, what brought me there? I ſaid, I went there with a perſon that belonged to the ſame houſe, and Mrs Goſling; and that ſhe called her huſband a buggerer. As ſoon as I mentioned that,—— Scrimſhaw put his finger up to his noſe.

*Q.* What did you imagine he meant by that?

*Parry.* What I imagined was, that I ſhould ſay no more. He deſired I would call the next day; I did, and found him at Mrs Greens, at the Golden Key; there was another perſon with him, named Prince. Scrimſhaw did not think proper to ſay any thing then, but aſked me to take a walk along with him. He ſaid he was to meet ſome gentlemen at John's Coffee-houſe by Lincoln's-Inn-Fields. We could not find the gentleman he went after there; then he deſired I would meet him the next day at Mr Lambert's, at the Horſe-Shoe, Charing-Croſs. I met him there accordingly; there was Mr Comſon and Scrimſhaw. From thence we went all three into the Park. Comſon

there

there ſaid, I wiſh you good luck, and then left us.

Q. Was not you ſomething ſurprized at his words, *I wiſh you good luck?*

*Parry.* I was ſurprized. After that, Scrimſhaw talked to me about Mrs Goſling's charging her huſband with being a buggerer at the Fountain-Tavern. I repeated it to him. He then aſked me, whether I knew Mr Morice that was Goſling's maſter? I told him no. He ſaid he was certain he was a man of fortune; and if the thing was well managed *it might be a fortune to us both.*

Q. Was there any talk between you and Scrimſhaw, that Goſling lived with Mr Morice?

*Parry.* Yes, there was; he ſaid, if he was to have the management of this affair, he ſhould bring Mr Morice to his bearing, and we ſhould always have him between finger and thumb. From thence we went to the Cockpit (an Ale-houſe) and had no more diſcourſe about this, as I can recollect, 'till we came there; there we call'd for a pint of purl; then Scrimſhaw drew out his pen and ink, and aſked me, if Mr Morice knew my hand-writing; I ſaid no. He ſaid he did not chuſe he ſhould know his 'till ſuch time as he had ſounded him, to ſee how his pulſe beat. He mended two pens, and then wrote a letter in order to ſend to Mr Morice.

Q. Look upon this letter, *(he takes one into his hand)* is this it?

*Parry.* This is the very letter, he wrote it with the back part of the pen.

Q. After this letter was wrote, what became of it?

*Parry.* Mr Scrimſhaw ſent it to Mr Morice by the Penny-Poſt.

Q. Did you ſee it put in.

*Parry.* No; he ſaid he'd ſend it. I left it in his cuſtody.

Q. *to Mr Morice.* Look at this letter.—*(he takes it in his hand.)*

*Mr Morice.* I received this letter on the 28th of Feb. laſt, to the beſt of my remembrance, whether by the Penny-Poſt, or how, I do not know *(turning it up)*; here is the Penny-Poſt mark upon it.

The letter read.

London, Feb. 27. 1759.

'Honoured Sir,

'I Hope you will excuſe my taking this liberty (more ſo as I am a ſtranger to you) but 'I happen'd to be at a certain place not long 'ſince, where your name was drawn in queſtion, upon a ſubject I am certain was you to 'know it, you would by no means approve of 'it (more ſo, as the party receives ſo conſiderable a bounty from your hand, and is 'maintained by you). If you deſire to know 'the particulars, will make an affidavit of 'what was mentioned, and will explain other 'inſtances to you concerning what I have here 'mentionad, and muſt beg my name to be kept 'a ſecret. If you think it proper may ſend 'me a line directed thus; To R. E. to be 'left at the Paul's Head, Lawrence-Lane, 'Cheapſide. Or if it will be more agreeable, 'be pleaſed to put it in the Daily Advertiſer 'on Saturday or Monday next, and you ſhall 'hear further from me, and all ſecrecy ſhall be 'punctually obſerved.

'I am, Sir,

'Your moſt obedient,

'humble ſervant to command,

'R. E.'

'To Humphry Morice, Eſq;

'Member of Parliament, at

'his houſe Dover-Street,

'Weſtminſter.'

Q. *to Mr Morice.* Did you write an anſwer to this letter?

*Mr Morice.* I did, to let him know I ſhould be ready to hear what he had to tell me, at the Hoop Tavern, Coventry-ſtreet, Piccadilly, on the next Saturday evening exactly at nine. It being a ſtrange kind of a letter, I, then having two ſervants in my houſe, determined which ever of them came firſt into the room, ſhould copy over this anſwer, and it happened to be Goſling. I did not chuſe that they ſhould

see my own hand writing. I sent it by a chairman to R. E. at the Paul's Head, Lawrence-lane. This is the draught I drew *(producing it)* for my servant to copy from.

*Counsel.* It cannot be read in court but the next letter takes notice of it.

*Parry.* Scrimshaw said, if any thing is obtained of Mr Morice we will give Comson five or ten guineas; this was at the Cockpit.

Q. When did you see Scrimshaw, or any of the parties after this?

*Parry.* Scrimshaw desired I would bring the answer as soon as I received it. I had before asked Scrimshaw where the letter must be directed, that came in answer; he said, not at his office; but wherever I had my letters directed to me out of the country. Then I fixed the Paul's-Head Lawrence-lane. I went to the Paul's-Head in a day or two and found a letter directed to R. E. I took and opened it and read it, and brought it to Mr Scrimshaw. He was at Mr Lambert's. I gave him the letter before I came away. It was not read there.

Q. Can you recollect the contents of it?

*Parry.* I could, if I was to hear it read again. I know the substance of it was to meet at the Hoop-Tavern, on a Sunday, I believe the next Sunday. There was no more said about it that night, but Mr Scrimshaw desired I would meet him the next night at Mr Caywood's, a Publick-House near Charing-Cross. I did not know that Comson was to be there. There was Scrimshaw and he, Comson drew up a letter that was to be sent to Mr Morice.

Q. The answer that you had received, and carried to Scrimshaw, what was done with it?

*Parry.* That was at this time lying on the table by us. Scrimshaw did not approve of part of Comson's letter; so he drew out one himself.

Q. Was that sent as he wrote?

*Parry.* It was copied over.

Q. Who copied it?

*Parry.* He himself did, and it was sent as he wrote it. Comson told Scrimshaw he ought to be careful for fear his hand-writing should be discovered.

Q. How do you know that letter was sent?

*Parry.* Scrimshaw told me he had sent it afterwards.

Q. Look at this letter— *He takes one in his hand.*

*Parry.* This is the letter; this was wrote at Caywood's by Scrimshaw.

Q. Did you see him write it?

*Parry.* I did.

Q. *to Mr Morice.* Do you know any thing of this letter?

*Mr Morice.* This letter I received to the best of my knowledge on a Saturday, as I was at dinner, the day I wrote mine; therefore, I did not imagine it came by the penny-post, but by a messenger.

The letter read.

Directed to Humphry Morice, Esq; Member of Parliament, Dover-street, Westminster.

March 3, 1759. 12 o'clock.

'Honoured Sir,

'YOur's I received, and if it be agreeable 'to you, would rather meet you either 'Monday or Tuesday night, at the place and 'time, you mentioned; if not, will to-morrow night, as desired and shall observe the 'direction. Therefore I presume to beg the 'favour of your interest, to intercede for me 'with some gentleman, to procure me a place 'in the Custom-House, Victualling-Office, or 'in any other station under the Government, 'in any part of England. As I am sensible it 'is in your power to grant me a favour of this 'kind, as vacancies of this nature, daily happens.—Sir, in my asking you this favour, I 'hope you will not take me (or look upon me) 'to be one of those that would offer to impose upon any gentleman. As Sir John 'Glynne, Member for Flint, and Samuel Egerton, Esq; Member for Cheshire, and 'others, knows me extremely well, and would 'do any thing to serve me: but, in asking of 'this nature, it is not in their power to serve 'a friend; if it is, they do not chuse to make 'use of their interest, if they have any. As I 'have met with great losses, and have been 'out of employment about this two years, and 'having a wife and child to maintain, has reduced my circumstances very much, which is

'the

'the ſole reaſon of my petitioning you to be 'my friend. As it will be doing me a great 'piece of ſervice, and yourſelf no diſkindneſs, 'which ſhall be for ever acknowledged; your 'compliance to the above, will be much better 'beſtowed, than on them whom now receive 'your bounty; and, you may depend, I will 'diſcloſe the whole, and nothing but the truth, 'as I ſhall make an affidavit of the ſame. Be 'pleaſed to ſend me an anſwer to the above, 'directed as before; and let it be there by 'eight in the morning, if not to-night. Your 'compliance to the within-mentioned, and you 'may command

'Your moſt obedient ſervant, &c.

'P. S. If poſſible, let me have your an-'ſwer to-night. I ſhould be greatly oblig'd 'to you to incloſe, in the anſwer, a couple 'of Franks.'

*Q. to Mr Morice.* Did you anſwer this letter?

*Mr Morice.* I had an anſwer wrote to it by the ſame hand; to the beſt of my knowledge, to let him know, if I did not meet him that Sunday night, as I was going out of town the beginning of the week, I could not meet him for ſome time, to hear what he had to ſay.

*Q. to Parry.* What directions did you receive, as to the anſwer to the ſecond letter?

*Parry.* I received orders from Mr Scrimſhaw, to go to the Paul's-head, for the anſwer. I went, as ſoon as I thought an anſwer could come there, either that day, or the next; there I found a letter. I took it, and carried it to the Mitre, near the Parliament-Houſe; and delivered it to Mr Scrimſhaw there.

Q. Do you recollect what was the purport of that anſwer?

*Parry.* I believe he mention'd, if he did not meet that evening, it would be a good while before he could.

Q. What did Scrimſhaw ſay to you?

*Parry.* I could not find Scrimſhaw that night, or there would have been a meeting that Sunday night; but I found him the next day, being Monday.

Q. What was done then?

*Parry.* He ſaid, he was ſorry he had it not before.

Q. Did he prepare any farther letter?

*Parry.* There was a letter wrote then, but that I believe was not ſent: it was about this time that Richardſon and Roſs became acquainted with the affair.

Q. When was the firſt time you had any converſation with either of them about it?

*Parry.* Mr Richardſon came to the houſe where I lodged, at Mr Jones's an Apothecary, in Fleet-lane: he aſk'd me if that grand affair, that Mr Scrimſhaw had taken in hand, was near compleated?

Q. What anſwer did you make to that?

*Parry.* I told him I did not know of any grand affair, at all: I ſaw him the next day at his office; then Roſs was there with him: at that time Roſs was become a partner with Scrimſhaw and Richardſon; then they aſked me the ſame queſtion.

Q. Which aſk'd that queſtion?

*Parry.* They both did; Richardſon aſk'd me, and Roſs was preſent. Then I did imagine Scrimſhaw had told them: I made no anſwer, but Mr Richardſon ſaid, I need not make it ſo ſtrange, for they knew of that grand affair, as well as I did; and if they did not partake, they muſt *paſs*. I told them, I ſuppo'd they had it from Mr Scrimſhaw: we went from thence to the Golden-Key.

Q. Did you tell them what Scrimſhaw had been doing?

*Parry.* I did not.

Q. What was done at the Golden-Key?

*Parry.* Richardſon and Roſs ſaid, it might be a very good thing, if it was well looked after. Then it was agreed upon to write a letter to Mr Morice; this was at the office: then we went all three of us to the Golden-Key, and I copied a letter that Richardſon had prepared; and it was ſent to Mr Morice.

Q. Look at this letter. *He takes one in his hand.*

*Parry.* This is my hand-writing: this is the letter I copied, from one drawn up by Richardſon.

Q. Who was it ſent by?

*Parry.* I believe it was ſent by an acquaintance of Mr Roſs's.

Q. *to Mr Morice.* Do you know any thing of this letter?

*Mr Morice.* I receiv'd this letter the latter end of March. It is signed *R. E.*

The letter read.

Directed to Humphry Morice, Esq; in Dover-ſtreet, Weſtminſter.

March 28. 1759.

'SIR,

'MY reaſon for not complying with your repeated deſires, of having an interview with me at the Hoop-Tavern, in Coventry-ſtreet; as I did not receive your letter 'till the Monday, otherwiſe would have waited on you. There was two other gentlemen of my acquaintance, in the adjoining room, whom will come upon oath, of what paſſed, as well as myſelf; you may depend on the greateſt honour and ſecrecy. I have a relation that has been twenty-three years in the Train of Artillery, in the Eaſt-Indies, as Lieutenant, lately come home; and is now Captain-Lieutenant in the ſame: a gentleman of family and fortune, who is deſirous of being promoted to the rank of Captain, in an old company of Invalids, in Britain, or the adjacent iſles; or the Captain of an old regiment of Foot, at home, or abroad. If this is not agreeable to you, would be glad to know what favours you would beſtow; as the point, now in queſtion, takes your honour in the moſt tender part. I hope, for your own peace, you will not fail in giving me a ſpeedy anſwer, directed as before.

'I am,

'Sir,

'your moſt obedient ſervant,

'to command,

R. E.

'P. S. The above-mentioned gentleman has 'been twenty-three years in the King's 'ſervice, been Captain-Lieutenant upwards 'of two years, but left his promotion by being ſo far a diſtance from his friends: his 'father is now in a great character abroad, 'and cannot make intereſt enough without 'a gentleman of your rank. Let me have 'your anſwer by to-morrow, ten o'clock.

R. E.'

Q. *to Mr Morice.* Did you write an anſwer to this letter?

*Mr Morice.* To the beſt of my remembrance I did; to this purport.

I did not know what they had to diſcover to me; ſo knew not how to promiſe any thing, 'till I had had a meeting: which I order'd on Monday, April 2. at the Hoop-Tavern.

Q. *to Parry.* Was you order'd to fetch Mr Morice's anſwer to this letter?

*Parry.* I was, and went for it: but cannot tell how long it was after this was ſent.

Q. Did you find an anſwer?

*Parry.* I did, at the Paul's-head. I open'd, and read it, and ſhow'd it to Roſs and Richardſon, and they read it in their office.

Q. What did you do with it afterwards?

*Parry.* I believe I kept that myſelf.

Q. Can you tell what became of it?

*Parry.* I cannot.

Q. Look upon this letter?—*(He takes it in his hand.)*

*Parry.* This is the anſwer that was ſent, and I received.

*Counſel.* The cover in which it was ſent, is loſt.

Q. *to Mr Morice.* Look at this letter.

*Mr Morice.* This is the anſwer that I order'd my man to copy out, from what I had before wrote.

Q. *to Parry.* Do you recollect any converſation with theſe people, about Mr Morice, at this time?

*Parry.* Yes, I ſaw Mr Roſs; he told me he had been inquiring after Mr Morice's character, with an acquaintance of his; who had a place ſomewhere.

Q. Where was this?

*Parry.* This was at his own door, where he lodged; at the bottom of Long-Acre.

Q. How

Q. How long after you received this answer was it?

*Parry.* It was very soon after this answer came. It was about the time that the next letter was wrote to Mr Morice.

Q. And what did Ross say he had heard of Mr Morice?

*Parry.* He said, he was a gentleman of great interest, that he belonged to the Board of Green-Cloth; and that, he lately had paid smart-money to the amount of fifteen or sixteen hundred pounds, on a like occasion.

Q. Whether you ever had any discourse with any of the others, about Mr Morice?

*Parry.* Yes: I believe it was the next day, with Scrimshaw.

Q. Where?

*Parry.* I believe it was at Mr Lambert's, at Charing-Cross. He told me just the very words.

Q. Repeat what Scrimshaw said—

*Parry.* Scrimshaw said, an acquaintance of his had told him, that Mr Morice was a gentleman of fortune, and of great interest, and that he had lately paid smart-money, to a considerable sum, on the like occasion.

Q. Do you recollect your giving Scrimshaw any note of hand, on any account.

*Parry.* Yes, there was a note given at the Cockpit about this; and about this time there was another letter wrote by Mr Scrimshaw.

Q. Who drew up the note?

*Parry.* He did.

Q. Can you tell the substance of that note drawn at the Cockpit?

*Parry.* No.

Q. After this, what was the next step taken?

*Parry.* There was a letter wrote at the King's Arms in Holywell-street in the Strand.

Q. Who was by at the time?

*Parry.* There was nobody there, but Scrimshaw and myself.

Q. Who wrote it?

*Parry.* Scrimshaw did, but that letter was not sent.

Q. Look on this letter and tell us who wrote it?

*Parry.* This is Scrimshaw's hand-writing.

*Counsel.* We shall prove by and by this letter to have been found in Parry's pocket when taken.

Q. How came you to be acquainted with his hand-writing?

*Parry.* I saw him write it.

*Mr Steydall.* I heard Mr Scrimshaw examined.

Q. Look on this letter—*(he takes it in his hand).*

*Mr Steydall.* This was taken upon Parry, and Mr Scrimshaw acknowledged in my hearing, that it was his own hand-writing.

Q. Where was this?

*Mr Steydall.* This was before Mr Fielding; and when Parry was in the Round-House Covent-Garden, he tore off the date of the letter.

It is read:

'SIR,

'HAVING received several letters from 'you, desiring an interview, one on Saturday last. I presume the purpose of meeting is on a very particular subject, to which 'I was an evidence; and by these inform you, 'I have no objection in order to inform you 'what I had related in a very extraordinary 'affair, that materially concerns you, as by 'character you are a gentleman of a very 'large fortune. I make no doubt that you 'will have any objection according to your 'promise, in making me a genteel compliment, adequate to the confidence such a subject deserves; and you may depend on the 'most profound secrecy on oath never to divulge what I know.' *The rest torn off.*

Q. *to Parry.* What was the contents of that note, which Scrimshaw drew in Holywell-street?

*Parry.* He drew, and I signed it, he was to take half of what ever was obtained from Mr Morice.

Q. Look at this note, is this that which he drew up at that time?

*Parry. He takes it in his hand.* This is it.

Q. *to*

*Q. to Mr Steydall.* Do you know any thing of this note?

*Steydall.* This note was found upon Scrimshaw, and he acknowledged before Mr Fielding in my hearing, that it was his own handwriting.

It is read.

'Memorandum,

'I do hereby agree and promise to pay to 'Samuel Scrimshaw, or order, one half of the 'sum I do receive from Humphry Morice, Esq; 'of Dover-street, Member of Parliament: as 'witness my hand, signed this day March 29. '1759.'

'Peter Parry.'

*Q. to Parry.* Was any thing more done?

*Parry.* Nothing more at that meeting: there was another letter wrote by Mr Richardson at their office.

*Q.* How soon after?

*Parry.* I cannot tell.

*Q.* Who was present?

*Parry.* Only Ross and Richardson, and myself. Richardson prepared the draught, and I copied it.

*Q.* Look at this letter.—(*He takes it in his hand*).

*Parry.* This is it: it is my hand-writing.

*Q. to Mr Morice.* Did you receive this letter?

*Mr Morice.* I received this letter about the time it bears date: about the beginning of April.

The draught found upon Parry, first read.

'I Did not know you was so far under a 'cloud, not to know the full meaning of 'my letter, and hope you will now excuse my 'undrawing the whole curtain, as I am not 'certain, but it may fall into other hands be'fore it reaches yours, but by what here fol'lows, you will be able to unriddle the whole. 'I and two gentleman of my acquaintance, 'happened to be at a Tavern on Ludgate-Hill, 'a little while ago: where, in the next room, 'we heard a great dispute between a certain 'person and his wife: the wife not only charged 'the husband *with sodomitical practices*,' (the last three words scratched out) 'with not only 'one of your domesticks; but likewise an 'infant at *H———d*, with sod——l prac'tices: which we, and I think all mankind 'ought to hold in the greatest detestation. 'I went out of the room we was in, with a 'feint of making water. The room door they 'was in being open, the gentleman, who I 'then found to be one of your domesticks, cal'led me in: the wife still exclaiming against 'him and you. I heard and saw the whole. 'Mr J—— G—— promised, if I would keep 'secrecy, any thing in your power would be 'granted. A few hours after I had a letter '*from you*,' (scratched out) 'signed Williams, 'wherein you mention you would give a bond 'if I would keep secrecy. I for my part 'would comply, thinking you mean an hun'dred guineas. I shewed your letter to the 'other two, who says, if you comply with the 'propofals mentioned in the last letter from 'me, they will do the same. They are ready 'to give you an interview with me, when and 'where you please, and you may depend on 'the veracity of what they promise, as well as 'you.

'Now, Sir, if you are willing to comply 'with the proposal in my last, it will bind us 'to secrecy. If that is not agreeable, shall be 'glad to know what you are willing to do.'

*Q. to Parry.* Could this be a letter copied from this draught?

*Parry.* This was drawn by Richardson for me to copy from.

*Q.* This differs very greatly from that letter, how came that?

*Parry.* That I can't tell, I wrote it in their presence.

The letter read.

March 31, 1759.

'SIR,

'I Did not know you was so far under the 'cloud, not to know the full meaning of 'my

'my letters. And I hope you will now 'excuſe my drawing the whole curtain, as 'I am not certain but it may fall into 'other hands before it reaches you: as 'by what here follows you will be able to 'unriddle the whole. I myſelf was preſent 'at the whole, likewiſe two gentlemen of 'my acquaintance was in the adjoining 'room, and heard what paſſed. A certain 'perſon was pleaſed to charge you with ſod—I 'practices, which I think all mankind ought 'to hold the greateſt deteſtation; and that you 'now have a * youth training (not far from 'town for that purpoſe). Now, Sir, if you are 'willing to comply with the propoſal in my laſt, 'it will bind an inviolable ſecrecy. If that is 'not agreeable, ſhall be glad to know what 'you are willing to do. Your anſwer by the 'bearer, or to-morrow morning by nine 'o'clock. And if your propoſal be agreeable 'to the confidence ſuch a ſubject deſerves, you 'may depend upon the moſt profound ſecrecy, 'and likewiſe an interview at the place men-'tioned, as deſired. I beg your anſwer imme-'diately.

'I am,

'Sir,

'Your humble ſervant,

R. E.

'P. S. As the bearer comes on purpoſe, I 'hope you will pay him.

'Sir, it is a thouſand pities, a gentleman 'of your fortune and character ſhould have 'your name drawn in queſtion, upon ſuch an 'occaſion.

'To Humphry Morice, Eſq;
'Member of Parliament,
'Dover-Street, Piccadilly.'

*Q. to Parry.* Did you agree that this letter ſhould be ſent to Mr Morice?

*Parry.* I did; and it was ſent by an acquaintance of Mr Roſs's.

*Q. to Mr Morice.* Did you ſend an anſwer to this letter?

*Mr Morice.* I did; they had excited my curioſity by the firſt letter, where they take notice, that other people had ſaid ſomething to my diſadvantage. I wrote for anſwer, 'That 'they might depend upon a proper return if 'they made a diſcovery anſwerable to their 'promiſe; but I had ſomething elſe to do than 'to waſte time in writing letters to no purpoſe, 'and appointed them to meet me on the mor-'row at the Hoop-Tavern.'

*Q. to Parry.* Can you recollect what anſwer you received to this letter?

*Parry.* I really cannot recollect what was the anſwer; but I received one, and ſhow'd it to Richardſon, Roſs, and Scrimſhaw.

*Q.* Did you deliver it to either of them?

*Parry.* No, I did not.

*Q. to Parry.* Was you ever to meet Mr Morice at the Hoop-Tavern, in Coventry-Street, and to aſk for Mr Williams?

*Parry.* No.

*Mr Morice.* As I did not think proper to go myſelf, I was afraid to mention the man's real name, Goſling; ſo I was obliged to give him ſome other name, and in that caſe he was to take upon himſelf the name of Williams, (for I was not to appear, but he was to appear) and he was the moſt improper man in the world to ſend there, (though I did not know it at that time) becauſe they knew him.

*Q. to Parry.* Did you receive an anſwer to this letter?

*Parry.* I did.

*Q.* What did you do with it?

*Parry.* I ſhow'd it to Richardſon and Roſs.

*Q.* What was their advice, as to meeting at the Hoop-Tavern?

*Parry.* They ſaid, by all means go and meet Mr Morice.



* A child of eight years old, belonging to one of Mr Morice's ſervants, and educated by that gentleman's charity at Hampſtead.

*Q.* Did you go to the Hoop-Tavern?

*Parry.* I did; and Richardſon and Roſs went along with me. Going along I ſaid, ſuppoſe Mr Morice ſhould not comply in regard to the Captain's commiſſion, what muſt I do? Then they ſaid, I muſt aſk him what he would give.

*Q.* Where were you when you had this diſcourſe?

*Parry.* This was as we were going along Lincoln's-Inn-Fields. I was alſo to ſay, that the two perſons that were in the adjoining room were then preſent, and ready to enter into any agreement, to do what he ſhould think proper, if he would do any thing handſome; they bid me inſiſt upon 500 l. provided he did not comply with the Captain's commiſſion, which we deſigned for Mr Whitmore; and I was not to take under 300 l. and if the gentleman had not ſo much money I was to inſiſt upon his note.

*Q.* Which of them ſaid this to you?

*Parry.* Both of them did; Roſs firſt, and Richardſon afterwards. I could not find Scrimſhaw that morning to go with us. We went to the ſign of the Black Horſe, which is about a door or two from the Hoop-Tavern; they ſtay'd there, and I went on to the Hoop-Tavern.

*Q.* Who was you to inquire for?

*Parry.* I was to inquire for Mr Williams.

*Q.* Who did you ſee there?

*Parry.* I aſk'd for Mr Williams; they ſent me up ſtairs, and there I found Mr Goſling.

*Q.* How long did you ſtay there?

*Parry.* I did not ſtay there above two minutes.

*Q.* Where did you go then?

*Parry.* I went to the Black Horſe again, being apprehenſive of being diſcovered. Mr Goſling came down ſtairs after me, and would fain have had me gone up, that he might ſpeak with me, but I refuſed it, and went away. Mr Goſling came after me to the Black Horſe, and Mr Roſs and he had ſome words before he came there. They inſiſted upon my going back again, but I would not.

*Q.* Was any thing done at the Black Horſe?

*Parry.* No, nothing at all, but we all went about our buſineſs.

*Q.* What were Roſs and Richardſon to have done in it?

*Parry.* They were to have ſaid, they were in the adjoining room, and over-heard the diſcourſe at the Fountain-Tavern between Goſling and his wife.

*Q.* Did you ever hear Scrimſhaw ſay any thing relating to that?

*Parry.* Yes, Scrimſhaw was to have ſaid the ſame, provided he had been preſent at any interview with Mr Morice. They all three agreed to ſay this, provided they had ſeen Mr Morice.

*Q.* Where was Scrimſhaw when he agreed to ſay this?

*Parry.* It was at Hibbard's (I believe) at Charing-Croſs.

*Q.* When was the next letter ſent?

*Parry.* The next lettter, I believe, was wrote at the Golden Key by Fleet-ditch.

*Q.* Who were preſent at the time?

*Parry.* There was Richardſon, Roſs, and myſelf.

*Q.* Who prepared it?

*Parry.* Richardſon did; and it was ſent; and there was an anſwer brought to it.

*Q.* Look at this letter — (*he takes it in his hand.*)

*Parry.* This is the letter.

*Q.* Who wrote it?

*Parry.* I did, from Richardſon's copy.

*Q. to Mr Morice.* Did you receive this letter? (*he takes it in his hand.*)

*Mr. Morice.* I received it on the 4th of April, the day after I had been with Mr Fielding, who was of opinion, that I ſhould never hear any more from them.

It is read.

Directed to Humphry Morice, Eſq; at his houſe, Dover-Street, Piccadilly.

'SIR,

'BEING honoured with ſeveral letters 'from you, appointing you to meet me 'at a certain place, in obedience thereto I at-'tended; but to my great ſurpriſe, I met on-'ly with your ſervant, therefore did not think 'it proper to divulge any thing to him, altho' 'he pretended he had a commiſſion to open 'your letters, and privy to your ſecrets: but I 'could not credit that ſtory. I will attend you in

'in perſon at any time and place you ſhall 'mention and appoint. The ſooner the better 'for reaſons to myſelf. A gentleman of 'your fortune and character, it is a pity 'but that you ſhould be thoroughly acquainted 'with what I have to ſay; and upon your per-'forming what you have mentioned in one of 'your letters, I will relate upon oath, what I 'have to ſay; and you may depend upon an 'inviolable ſecrecy.

'From your humble ſervant.'

*Mr Morice.* I ſent this to Mr Fielding, and he adviſed me to write no anſwer to it; then I directed Goſling to anſwer it.

*John Goſling.* This letter (*taking it in his hand*) I wrote an anſwer to.

*Q. to Parry.* Do you recollect who the anſwer to this letter came from?

*Parry.* It came from Mr Goſling, directed to me by name.

*Q.* What was the purport of it?

*Parry.* It was, that I ſhould go and acquaint Mr Fielding with whatever I had to ſay, if I knew any thing neceſſary to be told.

*Q.* What did you do with that letter you received from Goſling?

*Parry.* I told the contents of it to Roſs, Richardſon, and Scrimſhaw, and brought it to them all three in a day or two after.

*Q.* What did they ſay to it, when you ſhewed it to them?

*Parry.* Richardſon and Roſs were at the Golden Key, when I ſhewed it to them; and two days after I ſhewed it to Scrimſhaw. They were for my writing an anſwer to it.

*Q.* How ſoon after was it, that you met to write the next letter?

*Parry.* That I cannot directly tell. I know we did write an anſwer: part of it was wrote at their office, which I copied out.

*Q.* Look at this letter. (*He takes it in his hand.*)

*Parry.* This is it, dated Wedneſday, 11th of April, 1759. I wrote it from a draught of Richardſon's in Roſs's preſence.

*Q. to Goſling.* Did you receive this letter?

*Goſling.* I did.

It is directed to John Goſling, to be left at the Swan, near Hay-Hill.

It is read.

'MR Goſling, your's I received dated Sa-'turday (yeſterday). Your writing to 'me by your maſter's orders, perhaps it may 'be ſo; but let me tell you, it is not often, 'that ſervants take that liberty to open their 'maſters letters; but ſerving him in the capa-'city you do, it is not to be wondered at, but 'ſuch liberty might be taken. However, 'what Mrs Goſling told you at the Fountain, 'plainly appears now to be a matter of fact: 'Why did not you contradict her then, when 'ſuch a heinous crime was laid to your charge? 'But what is mentioned here is not half what 'I have to ſay; and if it be deſired, will bring 'proof of it; which will make ſome perſons be 'looked upon what they are now repreſented. 'As to my going to Mr Fielding, or any other 'particular gentleman, I aſſure you I ſhall 'not. What I have to ſay I ſhall communi-'cate it immediately to the publick; and I 'ſhall be always ready to aver what I have 'to ſay, by ſufficient witneſſes, to any perſon 'I ſhould be called upon legally. Now Sir, 'you are to do as you think fit, as I look up-'on you and Mr —— to be one. If 'you be minded, I will meet you any evening 'this week; if you will do what is hand-'ſome, if not, you may depend upon ſeeing 'it in the publick papers, with your name in 'full length, and every word that paſſed par-'ticularly mentioned. Your anſwer to this is 'immediately deſired.

'Your's, &c.

'Peter Parry.'

'P. S. If you think by my plain way of dreſ-'ſing I am a perſon of no conſequence, I refer 'you to Nicholas Kent, Eſq; of Clifford's-'Inn, and Francis Wardel, Eſq; Caſtle-Yard, 'to whom I pay an annual rent of 123l. per 'annum,

'annum, beſides a ſufficiency of my own, 'therefore if you do not ſalve up the matter, 'blame yourſelf for the conſequence.

'Peter Parry.'

Q. Do you pay that rent annually?

*Parry.* I did, for the tithes of the pariſh of Burton, within a mile and a half of Park-Gate. I did live there; but loſt it by misfortunes. I had the term of 16 years to come in it.

Q. Did Scrimſhaw ſee this letter before you ſent it?

*Parry.* He did, and approved of it.

Q. Who wrote that direction on this letter?

*Parry.* It is Richardſon's own hand-writing.

Q. Do you recollect, whether you received any anſwer to it?

*Parry.* I do not recollect that I did.

Q. Look at this letter. *(Another letter produced, he takes it in his hand.)*

*Parry.* I believe this letter was wrote at Mr Hibbard's.

Q. Who was preſent?

*Parry.* I believe Scrimſhaw was.

Q. Where does Mr Hibbard live?

*Parry.* At Charing-Croſs. Scrimſhaw wrote it firſt, and I copied it afterwards.

Q. Who wrote the direction?

*Parry.* The direction is of Mr Scrimſhaw's own hand-writing.

Q. *to Goſling.* Did you receive this letter? *(He takes it in his hand.)*

*Goſling.* I did. It is directed to Mr John Goſling, at the Swan, Hay-Hill, Piccadilly.

It is read.

'Mr Goſling,

'NOT receiving any anſwer to the letter 'that was left you at the Swan on Hay-'Hill, therefore unleſs you immediately an-'ſwer this, you will oblige me to ſend for an-'ſwer to Dover-ſtreet. If you have any re-'gard to your character, or Mr Williams's, I 'would have you heal up the wounds, which 'you may do now on reaſonable terms, other-'wiſe you may depend it will be made known 'to the publick, with your name in full length, 'and the place of reſidence, and that of Mr 'Williams likewiſe, with other circumſtances 'which you little think I know; and ſuch as 'ought not to be mentioned, not forgetting 'the affair of Hampſtead, which is ſhocking 'to think at. As yet, Mr Goſling, it is a pro-'found ſecret, and ſhall remain ſo with me, 'if you think proper; and am apt to think, 'that it will be for your intereſt, as well as 'Mr Williams's character, to have it kept ſo. 'Was I to ſee you, I could tell you ſeveral in-'ſtances relative to this affair more than you 'are aware of. If you will do any thing in 'reaſon it will be complied with, and that im-'mediately. Pray, who can hurt me for put-'ting it in the papers, as I can bring proof of 'it? what I ſhall mention I ſhall do upon 'oath, if required. Why had you not come 'alone to the Hoop-Tavern; had you done 'ſo I ſhould have explained myſelf then to 'you. I am apt to think it will be no way 'agreeable to you, to ſee your name in the 'public paper upon ſuch a ſubject; but I 'would not willingly blaſt a man's character. 'I will give you any ſecurity, to any amount, 'never to mention it, if you require it. An 'anſwer to this I ſhall expect to-morrow by 'noon. You cannot take it ill of me if you 'are expoſed, but blame yourſelf. If you have 'a mind to meet me alone, I will meet you 'whenever you pleaſe. I thought to have 'come and ſend for you to the Swan, but I 'was afraid you might not approve of it. I 'ſhould have ſent you this ſooner, but heard 'you was not in town. Fail not to let me 'have your anſwer.

'I am,

'Yours, &c.

'Peter Parry.

'Sunday 6 o'clock.

'Directed to Mr John Goſling,
'to be left at the Swan, Hay-
'Hill, Piccadilly.'

*Counſel.*

*Counſel. Goſling having ſent his letter to Party in a cover, they turned that cover inſide out, and they incloſed in it this letter to Goſling, and Scrimſhaw wrote the direction on this cover, which ſo far fixes Scrimſhaw.*

*Q. to Goſling.* Did you write an anſwer to this letter?

*Goſling.* I did.

*Q.* Look at this paper. *(He takes another letter in his hand.)*

*Goſling.* This is my hand-writing.

*Q. to Parry.* Look at this letter. *(He takes it in his hand.)*

*Parry.* This is the anſwer I received from Goſling to the laſt letter.

*Q.* Did you communicate the ſubſtance of it to either of the priſoners?

*Parry.* I did, firſt to Roſs and Richardſon, at their office, and afterwards to Scrimſhaw. I do not know whether I ſhow'd it to Scrimſhaw at Hibbard's, or at the Mitre.

It is read.

'Mr Parry,

'I Came to town on Saturday laſt, and on my 'arrival I received a letter from you. I 'am very ſorry you ſhould give yourſelf ſo 'much trouble about me; but if you will 'meet me on Wedneſday evening, a little be-'fore 6 o'clock, at Mr Carty's, at the King's 'Head, Drury-lane, where I will be at that 'time. I hope I ſhall be able to give you an 'anſwer to your ſatisfaction.

'John Goſling.

'Monday Morning, Apr. 23.

'To Mr R. E. at the Paul's-'Head, Lawrence-Lane, 'Cheapſide.'

*Q. to Parry.* Did you meet Goſling at the King's Head in Drury-Lane, according to this letter?

*Parry.* No. I did not go.

*Q.* Look at this letter. *(Another letter put into his hand.)*

*Parry.* This letter I wrote either at the Office, or at the Golden Key, from a draught prepared by Richardſon, in Roſs and Richardſon's preſence. It is dated 25th of April, 1759.

It is read.

Directed to Mr John Goſling, or Mr Williams, to be left at the King's Head, Drury-Lane.

'SIR,

'YEſterday I received your's of Monday, 'appointing an interview this evening at 'Drury-lane. As you are pleaſed to ſay you 'are ſorry I give myſelf ſo much trouble about 'you, I here declare, this is the laſt time you 'ſhall hear from me in this manner; neither 'ſhall I meet you in Drury-lane; if you chuſe 'to come to the Golden Key, Fleet-market, 'near Holborn, between ſix and ſeven this 'evening, I ſhall be there, ready to give you 'all the ſatisfaction you can deſire; if not, 'you may expect to ſee yourſelf and Mr Wil-'liams, &c. very ſoon in the public papers.

'Your's, &c.

'Peter Parry.'

*Q. to Parry.* Look at this letter. *(Another letter put into his hand.)*

*Parry.* This I wrote at the Rummer: Roſs and Richardſon were preſent.

*Q.* Who prepared the draught?

*Parry.* Richardſon did, and I copied it over, and ſhowed it to Scrimſhaw, and he approved of it.

*Q.* There is a poſtſcript to it; who wrote that?

*Parry.* Scrimſhaw wrote that N. B. and I copied it and ſent it away.

*Q.* Where did Scrimſhaw draw that draught?

*Parry.* At the Rummer, Charing-Croſs.

*Q. to Goſling.* Did you receive this letter? *(He takes it in his hand.)*

*Gosling.* I did; but I can't recollect the time.

It is read.

Directed to John Gosling, at Humphry Morice's, Esq; Dover-Street, Piccadilly, Saturday morning, 8 o' clock.

'SIR,

'I Have from time to time received various 'letters, under the sanction of your master, 'I therefore now insist to know, for what 'purpose, or what meaning you can have, in 'the word *satisfaction*. I am sorry you had 'not my last letter in time, which was owing 'to the neglect of the person in the house, be-'ing left there by 12 o' clock. Now, to put 'an end to this mysterious affair, I desire the 'favour of a line to know, for what reason 'you can have so often, in your letters, desi-'red an interview, and for what end and pur-'pose; and on the receipt of your's will be 'punctual at 6 o' clock, to meet you at Mr 'Overall's, at the Blossom's-Inn, Lawrence-'Lane, where we may have a room to our-'selves, and finally put an end to this trouble.

'I am,

'Your humble servant,

'Peter Parry.'

'N. B. As you propose *satisfaction* in seve-'ral of your letters, your compliance in that, I 'will then justly inform you who are your ac-'cusers of an infamous affair laid to your 'charge, and the gentleman —— *under the* 'name of *Williams*, &c. Your immediate an-'swer will oblige,

'Your humble servant,

'As before ——'

*Mr Steydall.* The draught of this postscript, or N. B. was found in the pocket of Scrimshaw when taken.

*It is read in court, the same as that in the letter.*

*Q. to Gosling.* Look at this letter. *(Another letter put into his hand.)*

*Gosling.* This is an answer that I sent to Parry, appointing him to meet me at the Golden Key in the Fleet-Market: It is dated April 30.

*Q. to Parry.* Look at this letter; do you know it?

*Parry.* This I received, and show'd it to Ross and Richardson at the Golden Key, but I could not find Scrimshaw. Mr Ross had left word at the Golden Key, that if any body came there to inquire for me to show them up stairs, and send for me; I was in their Office at the Fleet-Market. Gosling came to the Golden Key, I went to him, and Ross was immediately to follow me.

*Q.* What was the consequence of your going there?

*Parry.* There was an officer there ready, and I was taken up, and carried before a magistrate, and there I confessed the whole.

*Q. from Scrimshaw.* He asserts I met him at the Golden Key, I would ask him, whether, ever since he has had any connection in this case, did ever he see me at the Golden Key?

*Parry.* I have seen him there, but not on this occasion.

*Q. from Scrimshaw.* He has said, I wrote a letter with the back of a pen; I beg to see that letter.

*Parry takes that letter in his hand.* This I saw Scrimshaw write with the back part of the pen at the Cockpit.

*Scrimshaw. (Takes it in his hand,)* I never penn'd one letter of this.

*Mr Recorder.* Take care how you give Parry credit, for he is so bad a man, that we cannot believe him, unless he is supported by farther evidence; perhaps you do not know, that by these questions you give him credit.

*Q. from Scrimshaw.* There is another letter that he says I wrote, which is not my hand-writing *(it is put into his hand)*. This he says I wrote

I wrote at Caywood's; it is not my hand-writing; I never ſaw it before.

*Q. from Scrimſhaw.* Parry ſays he met me at the King's Arms in Holywell-Street; I beg to know, whether he ever ſaw me there in his life?

*Parry.* I am poſitive I ſaw him there. He wrote a letter there which was not ſent; and it was there that the promiſſory note was drawn.

*Q. from Scrimſhaw.* He ſays, this affair firſt began at the Golden Key in the Fleet-Market, or at our Office; I aſk him, whether he ever heard mentioned, or the leaſt ſyllable relating to it, 'till he met me at Caywood's in the beginning of March, and deſired me to go with him into the Park.

*Mr Recorder.* You ſhall have an anſwer to that queſtion if you chuſe it, but it is a very dangerous one.

*Parry.* The firſt time that this was mentioned was at the Earl of Warwick's Head, at the corner of the Fleet-Market; when he put his finger to his mouth, and deſired I would ſay no more 'till next morning. The ſecond letter was wrote at Caywood's.

*Q. from Scrimſhaw.* There is a fourth letter he mentions; I would beg leave to ſee it, for I know it is not my hand-writing; and likewiſe a fifth.

*Mr Recorder.* He did not ſay they were wrote by you. Mr Ford ſhall ſhow you what is charged to have been wrote by you.

*Mr Ford.* Firſt, here is the body of the note of hand *(putting it into his hand.)*

*Scrimſhaw.* I did not write this.

*Parry.* I ſaw you write it.

*Mr Ford.* Here is a N. B. ſaid to be wrote by you, *putting it into Scrimſhaw's hand.*

*Scrimſhaw.* This was taken from Parry's own pocket. *But he did not deny his writing it.*

*Mr Ford.* Here is the ſecond letter to Goſling, the direction ſaid to be wrote by you, *putting it into Scrimſhaw's hand.*

*Scrimſhaw.* This is not my hand-writing.

*Mr. Ford.* Here is the ſeventh letter, ſaid to be copied from a draught of Scrimſhaw's. *Putting the draught into his hand.*

*Parry.* This was wrote by Scrimſhaw at Hibbard's.

*Mr Ford.* Here is another, ſaid to be your hand-writing, found in your own pocket. *(He takes it into his hand.)*

*Scrimſhaw made no anſwer to this.*

*Q. from Roſs.* Whether Parry did not declare to me in New-Priſon, that he was offered bribes to come to terms, in ſwearing on this indictment againſt Scrimſhaw and me.

*Parry.* I never was offered a farthing.

*Q.* Did you ever, in any priſon, ſay to any body, that you had been offered any bribe or reward, to give evidence on this affair?

*Parry.* No never. The priſoners have aſked me, if I was not bribed; I told them no: no body ever gave me a farthing.

*Q. from Roſs.* Whether he is not to have ſome reward, or fee, or gratuity, for giving his evidence?

*Parry.* No. I never was to have any.

*Q.* Do you expect any?

*Parry.* No; I do not.

*Q.* Has any been promiſed you?

*Parry.* No.

*Q. from Roſs.* Whether you did not declare to me in New-Priſon, that it is not in their power to hurt you, ſaying, I have thrown them on their backs; for what has been acted by Steydall and John Goſling, I am capable of throwing their indictment all aſide?

*Parry.* I never mentioned thoſe words in my life, nor heard them mentioned.

*Q.* Do you expect, in conſequence of impeaching theſe people, that you yourſelf ſhall not be proſecuted?

*Parry.* I cannot tell whether I ſhall be proſecuted or not, I hope not.

*Mr Morice.* I never ſaw Parry in my whole life 'till this morning; then he went down on his knees, and begged for mercy of me.

*Q.* Have you had any promiſes made you from Mr Morice, or any perſon on his account, that you ſhall have any reward, or any thing elſe, in conſequence of your telling the truth, concerning theſe people?

*Parry.* No, never in my life.

*Q.* Did you ever make any declarations to Roſs,

Roſs, of your having it in your power to defeat this proſecution?

*Parry.* No, never in my life.

*Q. from Roſs.* Whether he did not deſire that one Mr Jones and his wife, ſhould be called as evidences, relative to this affair, when tried?

*Parry.* I ſaid, perhaps it may be proper to have Mr Jones and his wife called.

*Q. from Roſs.* Whether you did not ſay, without the wife of John Goſling there could be no trial?

*Parry.* No, I never ſaid ſo. I heard Scrimſhaw ſay ſo.

*Q. from Roſs.* Did not you communicate this to me?

*Parry.* No, never in my life.

*Q. from Roſs.* Did not you tell me that when you was examined before Mr Fielding, you did not ſwear that Samuel Scrimſhaw, John Roſs, and John Richardſon, did frequently meet about this affair?

*Parry.* In the examination that Juſtice Fielding's clerk drew out, it was put in that Samuel Scrimſhaw, John Roſs, and John Richardſon, did meet all together; but I told Mr Fielding that was not right, for they all three never were together at one time, about this affair with me.

*Roſs.* We are able to prove we have not ſeen one another for three months; but I ſee the evidence Parry, is fully determined to ſwear, be the conſequence what it will, ſo I will ſay no more.

*George Steydall.* I was at the meeting at the Fountain Tavern on Ludgate-Hill. I went there along with John Goſling. There was ſome miſunderſtanding between Goſling and his wife: they had parted in Ireland; and when Mr Morice came to town, Goſling came to me and begged I would go with him to meet his wife at the Fountain; there ſhe was in a violent paſſion, and amongſt other names, did call her huſband *Buggerer*.

*Q.* Was Mr Morice's name mentioned there at that time?

*Steydall.* No; his name was not ſo much as mentioned.

*Q.* What were the words the woman made uſe of?

*Steydall.* She ſaid to her huſband, *You are a Buggerer:* that was all that was remarkable there.

*Q.* Was you there all the time?

*Steydall.* I was.

*Q.* Was you at Juſtice Fielding's when the priſoners and Parry were there?

*Steydall.* I was: there were ſome letters produced.

*Q.* Look at this letter—(*the firſt letter read*). *He takes it in his hand.*

*Steydall.* This was delivered to me by Mr Morice, and it was ſhewed to Scrimſhaw, and he acknowledged it to be his own hand-writing.

*Q.* Was he then under examination?

*Steydall.* He was.

*Q.* Whether in order to obtain ſuch a confeſſion, any undue meaſure was taken?

*Steydall.* No, none at all: he acknowledged it very frankly and freely.

*Q.* Look at this letter — (*the ſecond letter put into his hand*).

*Steydall.* This was ſhewn him: this he acknowledged to be his own hand-writing in the ſame free manner as before. I had him ſearched, and I gave the papers found upon him to the officer. This promiſſory note, *taking it in his hand*, was found in Scrimſhaw's pocket-book, and he freely owned he wrote the body of it. (*He took another paper in his hand*). This was found in Parry's pocket, it is the N. B. I ſhewed to Scrimſhaw, and he acknowledged it to be his hand-writing. There was alſo a piece of a letter found upon Parry; I ſhewed it to Scrimſhaw; and he acknowledged it to be his hand-writing. There was found upon Roſs, a letter ſent by Mr Whitmore to them about a commiſſion. *Taking it in his hand.*

*Q.* Did Scrimſhaw own or deny a conſpiracy?

*Steydall.* He partly owned it.

*Q.* Explain that.

*Steydall.* He was charged with it and did not deny it; and acknowledged he wrote two of the letters.

*Q.* Was he charged with conſpiring?

*Steydall.*

*Steydall.* He was, and he made no defence.

*Roſs.* Parry ſaid to me that Mr Steydall and and Goſling, came frequently to New-Priſon to him, to tell him he was not to be hurt, and deſired him not only once, but frequently to ſay, that Samuel Scrimſhaw was concerned in a conſpiracy with John Richardſon and me. The queſtion is whether Mr Steydall was not privy to telling Parry, that he was to have a handſome reward for his trouble?

*Steydall.* There never was any promiſe made to Parry that I know of.

*Q. from Roſs.* When Peter Parry was brought before the Grand-Jury, whether Mr Steydall did not deſire Parry to inſiſt upon one particular letter, that it ſhould not be read before the Grand-Jury?

*Steydall.* I never heard of any ſuch thing 'till this moment: I read every letter to the Grand-Jury myſelf, and did not ſuppreſs one ſyllable.

*Q. from Roſs.* Whether Mr Steydall did not deſire Parry, not to inſiſt upon bringing the wife of John Goſling, and Mr Jones and his wife to the trial?

*Steydall.* This is the firſt time of my hearing thing of this.

*Roſs.* I do not think it neceſſary to aſk Mr Steydall any more queſtions. I believe he is an honeſt man: but Parry the evidence is a very bad man. The Reverend Mr Maſon is a principal evidence for me, but he is not here.

*Q. from Roſs to Goſling.* Whom did you ſee at the Hoop-Tavern?

*John Goſling.* I was at the Hoop-Tavern. Parry came to me, but did not ſtay any time. I followed him to the Black-Horſe, at the corner of the ſtreet, two or three doors from the Hoop-Tavern. There I found Mr Roſs and another man, which they ſay was Richardſon.

*Edward Parker.* I live at the Guy of Warwick, at the corner of Fleet-lane. I have ſeen Parry about three times: once or twice along with Scrimſhaw: one time I particularly remember.

Q. Was any body elſe in company?

*Parker.* There was Roſs with them, and another little man.

Q. How many times may you have ſeen them together?

*Parker.* I have ſeen them twice together; that is, Parry, and Scrimſhaw, and Roſs. Scrimſhaw and Roſs kept an Office of Intelligence; I did not know who were the partners: Richardſon was a little man, he might be one of the partners; he was backwards and forwards there: I can't ſay, that I ever ſaw them all together.

Q. Do you know Comſon, an Attorney?

*Parker.* I do; I ſaw him with Scrimſhaw.

Q. How many times may you have ſeen Scrimſhaw at your houſe?

*Parker.* About a dozen times.

Q. Where does Comſon live?

*Parker.* I do not know.

*Mrs Green.* I keep the Golden-Key at the corner of the Fleet-Market: my houſe is next door to Mr Richardſon's office. I do not know whether Scrimſhaw belonged to it or not: he uſed to be in it ſometimes. They frequently uſed my houſe. I have ſeen Scrimſhaw and Roſs there, and Parry with them, I believe half a dozen times.

*Scrimſhaw's Defence.*

I beg leave to obſerve to this Honourable Court, that I neither know Mr Morice, nor Mr Goſling, and that I never ſaw either of them, 'till I ſaw Mr Goſling with Juſtice Fielding. I will defy any man in the world, to ſay he ever heard me ſpeak a word to the diſreputation of Eſquire Morice. Parry did mention to me an affair he had with a gentleman, and ſaid, he had received ſeveral letters, and that he deſired him to meet him at the Hoop-Tavern in Coventry-ſtreet. I had a good deal of converſation with him about it. I told him he ſhould be cautious how he meddled with gentlemens characters. He told me he had ſomething to ſay to the gentleman: and that he had ſent to him to come to him, that he might divulge what he had heard. I never ſpoke a diſreſpectful word of Eſquire Morice. I have heard he is a very worthy gentleman, and I am ſorry he ſhould think, that I have been any way inſtru-

mental in attempting to hurt or touch his character any way whatever. I am very cautious in touching any man's character, much more a gentleman's character. After I had the misfortune to be acquainted with this Parry, I heard ſomething laid to his charge by Parry that was bad. I had not ſeen Parry a conſiderable time. I wrote him a letter, that I believed him to be a very bad man, as I apprehended he had wronged a very worthy gentleman's character, and told him I hoped he would be careful.

*Counſel.* Look upon this letter—(*This was found in Parry's pocket-book, when taken.*)

*Scrimſhaw.* This is the letter: I deſire it may be read.

It is read.

Directed to Peter Parry, to be left at the Paul's-Head, Lawrence-Lane.

'Mr Parry,

'I Received a billet from you with initial letters, which I believe ment Mr Goſling: 'I accordingly appointed the houſe, the corner 'of Buckingham-Court: you never came, nor 'have I heard of you ſince; which gives me 'ſome reaſons to believe your tale on that reproachful affair, was calculated to anſwer to 'ſome private end of your own; and ſtrongly 'corroborates with ſeveral circumſtances, I 'have lately been informed of, relative to yourſelf. If ſo, think how greatly you have abuſed the character of the gentleman of fortune, 'and of which ſcandalous reports I ſhould think 'it juſtice to inform him, if not, ſhould be glad 'to be convinced to the contrary, and other 'affairs, that are greatly to your prejudice, and 'deſire you to conſider when I lent you that 'money out of my pocket, I greatly wanted it 'myſelf.

'I am,

'Your's,

'Samuel Scrimſhaw.

'Pleaſe to be on Saturday morning at ten 'o'clock, at the houſe in Buckingham-'Street.

'Thurſday the 26th, 1759.'

*Mr Ford.* I have looked into the almanack, and find there was no other Thurſday which happened on the 26th, but that in April.

*Scrimſhaw.* One thing I have to obſerve, I never was with Parry in the city of London from the firſt time he mentioned any thing relating to the proſecutor; nor I never ſaw him in the city ſince, which he very well knows. I bid him be careful how he meddled with a gentleman's character, and told him I thought the gentleman ſhould rather puniſh him, than give him any reward.

*Roſs's defence.*

I have nothing to give the Court any trouble about. My Lord, You have heard in all the the letters produced that have been read, that I never wrote, ſealed, nor delivered (and if Parry had told the truth) never indited one ſyllable, as God is my judge, he is the only judge that knows the wickedneſs of the evidence. I never ſaw Peter Parry write one ſcribe with a pen. I never had one of the letters that came from the honourable gentleman whom I never ſaw in all my life. I hope the court will conſider, I am a poor unfortunate man, and grant me mercy. I have a wife and two ſmall children, and quite innocent. We have circumſtances every day of the badneſs of Parry; and had we had the liberty to have put off our trial, I believe we could have proved him perjur'd. That I am pretty certain of.

*Scrimſhaw.* I believe Parry is the whole and ſole inventer of this wicked affair; and he is purjured as there is a living God in Heaven.

*Q. to Steydall.* Did Roſs confeſs any thing before the juſtice.

*Steydall.* He confeſſed before the juſtice, that he was privy to the 3d and 4th letters dictated by Richardſon in his preſence.

Q. from

*Q. from Roſs.* Whether I ſaid I ever had one of them in my hand?

*Steydall.* That I cannot ſay.

*Q.* Did you obſerve him to look at either of the letters at the time he owned he was privy to them.

*Steydall.* As the letters were read in their order; theſe two letters Parry pointed out, and ſaid, Roſs had a hand in them, to which Roſs owned he was privy.

*Roſs.* They might be read to me, but if I was to be put to death I cannot recollect one ſyllable of one letter. I beg leave to aſk the honourable court (as I am a ſtranger to the courts in England) whether it is a common rule, to inquire into the characters of evidences or not.

*Mr Recorder.* It is very common; and I ſhall tell the jury, they are not to believe the evidence which Parry has given upon his own credit.

*Q. from Roſs.* Whether men that are in a public way of buſineſs are not often to be ſeen in different companies, and cannot ſay, whether they are honeſt or diſhoneſt? We pay 16 l per year, and keep an open office. I have one circumſtance with regard to the letters, ſaid to be copied from Richardſon's draughts in my preſence. I do not know, that for a week together, I was two hours in a day in my office. I kept at the Coffee-Houſe, the place of meeting gentlemen on my buſineſs; I do not know that ever I ſaw a letter that either Parry or Richardſon had wrote: I have ſeen them at the deſk a-writing when I have came in. If I knew my ſelf guilty I ſhould not have ſpoke one ſyllable. I never confeſſed any one circumſtance, only one letter.

*To Scrimſhaw's character.*

*William Dodd.* I have known Scrimſhaw 18 years.

*Q.* What are you?

*Dodd.* I am a Periwig-maker.

*Q.* What is his general character?

*Dodd.* I never heard any thing bad of him in my life. He was a Periwig-maker; I have dealt with him; I always believed him to be an honeſt man.

*William Bathoe.* I have known him 17 or 18 years. I am a Periwig-maker; I have the honour to work for his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales.

*Q.* What is Scrimſhaw's character?

*Bathoe.* I never knew any harm of him in my life.

*William Grinley.* I am a Linnen-draper, and live at Charing-Croſs, I have known Scrimſhaw about 14 years.

*Q.* What is his character?

*Grinley.* I never knew any thing ill of his character in my life. He kept a Periwig-maker's ſhop pretty near where I live. He had misfortunes came upon him, but I never heard any ill of him.

*Thomas Hearne.* I have known him about 10 Years.

*Q.* What are you?

*Hearne.* I am a Hair-ſeller. He is an honeſt man, for what I know.

*To Roſs's character.*

*Thomas Hunter.* I am a Stay-maker. I have known Roſs upwards of nine years, he always was a very honeſt man. I never knew any ill of him to this preſent moment.

*John Read.* I have known him five years. His character was always good ſince I knew him.

*Joſeph Brigs.* I was bred to the Law originally, but have been 18 years in trade.

*Q.* What trade?

*Brigs.* A Stationer in Lincoln's-Inn. I have known Roſs ſince November laſt; and have had ſome converſation with him, and found him to be a very honeſt good man.

*Roſs.* It was in the month of October laſt that I came to London.

*The Jury went out, and returned in about ſeven minutes, and brought in their verdict, both* Guilty.

*They received ſentence, To be impriſoned in his Majeſty's gaol of Newgate for the term of three years; and to ſtand in the Pillory twice, once at the upper end of Cheapſide; and once by Fleet-ditch.*

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